

Subject: A talk with the secretary of the Russian Orthodox Church at the Ecumenical Council in Rome.

Date: 15 Nov. 1964

Source: Kmt

B. Nelioubin, 6 Rue De Beaumont, Geneve - Suisse, acted as interpreter during the interview with Rev. Voronov, and after the latter left, continued (gladly) to talk.

He is a 33-year-old, six-footer, with brown hair. He is a Russian, but lived more than half of his life in Ukraine, and attended Kiev University. Now lives in Geneva with his wife, where he works as secretary for the Russian mission to the Council of Churches. Their six-year-old daughter lives in Kiev. His Ukrainian is quite good, but at times he throws in a Russian word to make sure that what he wants to say comes out right.

The subjects discussed included: Russian chauvinism, Russification of Ukraine, lack of internal and external signs of Ukraine's statehood.

Nelioubin was told that Ukrainians abroad are unable to establish friendly relations with Russians, because Russians do not recognize Ukraine as a separate nation.

N. continually rejected any charges of the existence of Russian great power chauvinism. He said Ukrainian SSR is not dependent in everything on Moscow. If Ukrainians were really subjugated to Moscow, they would have rebelled long ago. He said he knows the Ukrainians. N. then mentioned "a Ukrainian Podgorny" who rules in Moscow.

On the Ukrainian diplomatic missions abroad: there are those in the U.N., in Geneva, in Czechoslovakia and in Warsaw. It's up to the Ukrainians in the other countries to demand the establishment of other diplomatic missions. He said he liked the idea of the establishment of Ukrainian diplomatic relations with other countries.

On Russification in Ukraine: It does not exist. More than half of Ukrainian schools use Ukrainian as language of instruction. The parents may send their children where they wish.

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In the universities, back in 1952-3, Ukrainian language became a compulsory subject. All the collective farm workers speak Ukrainian, and even when they bring their produce to the market they talk to customers in Ukrainian.

It's true that Russian is heard more frequently in the cities, but all the official speeches and performances in Ukraine are conducted in Ukrainian.

He admitted that circulation of Ukrainian periodicals and number of books printed in Ukrainian seems a bit low. Most of the scientific papers also appear in Russian, although they are written by Ukrainians. It's their business. You ask them why they don't write in Ukrainian. Nobody says they can't.

N. became sombre when the talk went into the subject of assassinations of Petlyura, Konovalets, Rebet and Bandera. He asked about the assassination of Bandera, how it was done, and said he was opposed to such measures.

Add. info:

N. said that as far as he knows, Canada refused to establish diplomatic relations with Ukraine.

N is very proficient in Czech language.